Speech By

Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cairns, Edor Carnival

Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (2.09 pm): It is so refreshing to see the wider Cairns community come together by taking collaborative action to address key identifiers that can lead to youth offending—isolation, boredom, lack of transport, poor nutrition, lack of physical exercise and limited motivation. I bring to the House's attention the wonderful work of Mr Marc Harbrow through his company Harbrow Mentoring and its not-for-profit group Our Future Mentors Indigenous corporation. Harbrow Mentoring is dedicated to improving the lives of young people through three key pillars: leadership, mentoring and sport—and they are doing just that.

On Saturday, 14 October Harbrow Mentoring coordinated our annual Edor Carnival, or the 'running game'—a chase-and-tag type team sport which originated in the Aurukun community many generations ago, likely introduced to Northern Australia through missionaries from Samoa in the early 1900s. It is a game still widely played throughout North Queensland and the Torres Strait today. Proudly supported through a $14,000 Community Partnership Innovation Grant from the Department of Youth Justice, the event attracted 100 participants across 10 teams—five youth teams between the ages of eight and 12; and five junior teams of young people aged between 13 and 18.

Thanks to Aurukun State School and the Aurukun Shire Council, who helped coordinate two teams, elders and support staff travelled to Cairns alongside Aurukun's 2021 Young Citizen of the Year, esteemed marathon runner Waynead Wolmby, who officially opened the running games event—and run they did. Teams from Yarrabah and across Cairns converged on Jones Park and enjoyed celebrating not just culture but also camaraderie and, more importantly, healthy competition.

I say a huge and sincere thank you to Kinetic, which provided two buses with drivers to transport participants, support staff and family members from the Mooroobool Hub, managed by Cairns Safer Streets, to the Manoora Community Centre, which is now proudly run by Centacare, which has recently been awarded the tender to continue to offer community programs.

Thanks also go to the Gimuy community radio, Bumma Bippera Media, which provided a free outdoor broadcast on 98.7 to ensure families and friends across the north could share in the excitement and help celebrate the achievements of their loved ones. It is so heartening to see the whole community of Far North Queensland working together—the private sector, not-for-profit groups, charities and schools. This is just as it should be. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, and I am extremely proud of the work the Palaszczuk Labor government has done to assist the broader community to work together, creating productive and positive experiences for young people. Community safety is all our responsibility. Cairns is getting it right.